

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 20, with the following paragraph. A marked-up version is attached to this Amendment.

A2
In a busy casino, a typical night involves a high volume of transactions of which check cashing represents a significant means whereby patrons gain access to cash. In this situation, the casino strives to be efficient by completing transactions without undue delay or unnecessary embarrassment to the individual cashing the check. In the fast changing sea of faces often present in casinos, neither the tellers nor their supervisors typically develop personal relationships with the gaming patrons. Consequently, there is a need to develop a system of quickly and efficiently ascertaining whether the individual presenting a check for cashing has or has not been listed on the gambler's exclusion list put out by the state gaming commission. At present there is only one process available to the casino that allows them the ability to review and compare each customers personal information against the information provided by the state gaming commission and this would be a manual identification at the point when a check is presented for cash at the cage.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 25, with the following paragraph. A marked-up version is attached to this Amendment.

A3
Casinos are required to perform due diligence necessary to ensure that every person presenting a check for cashing is not on the state's disassociated list. This is typically accomplished by manually reviewing the information on the list, provided by the state, with the same information presented by the check writer, i.e., if the list requires a Social Security Number (SSN), then the casino will also require a SSN for comparison on the list. If there is a match or hit between the individual presenting a check for cashing and one listed on the Exclusion list, security will be summoned for further inspection of the check writer and the information supplied by the gaming commission. If after a visual inspection, it is determined that the check writer is listed on the Exclusion List, the casino must notify the police who then must file criminal trespass charges against the check writer.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10, with the following paragraph. A marked-up version is attached to this Amendment.

ad
The check transaction processing system and method of the present invention enables a casino teller presented with a check with the ability to quickly and accurately verify the checking information at the entity housing an exclusion list database, and then to determine, through the exclusion list database, if the check writer is on the disassociated person or exclusion list.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 15, with the following paragraph. A marked-up version is attached to this Amendment.

as
Figure 1 schematically illustrates a system 10 for identifying disassociated check writers whose status as disassociated check writers is housed in a database. System 10 includes an input/output device (I/O) 12, and a host computer 14 in communication with device 12 which could be a point of sale (POS) device, a personal computer (PC) or similar device to transmit check writer data. As shown host computer 14 includes a microprocessor 16 and database 18 in communication with microprocessor 16.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 4, with the following paragraph. A marked-up version is attached to this Amendment.

al
Host computer 14 includes microprocessor 16 and database 18. Database 18 has information on the disassociated check writers. Database 18 could be any type of medium suitable for the storage of this type of information. For example, database 18 could be a disk drive and a control or a plurality of disk drives and controls. The disassociated list information could be provided to the entity housing the exclusion list database by the state gaming commission or from the casinos directly. This information can be supplied in various forms including electronic or hard copy (paper) format. The information will be entered into an exclusion data base upon receipt. Upon entry into the database, the exclusion list can be readily accessed by casinos subscribing to the service that allows them access to the exclusion

a6
list database. Typical information provided by the gaming commission would include (but would not be limited to) the check writer's name, Driver's License number, social security number (SSN) and Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) information. The Exclusion List database will also accommodate future technological enhancements such a biometrics (retinal or thumbprint scan).

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20, with the following paragraph. A marked-up version is attached to this Amendment.

a7
Microprocessor 16 may be any suitable processor which is capable of capturing the information on individual check writers and later retrieving such information to identify a match between the information input at the I/O device and the information stored within the database 18. For example, microprocessor 16 may be a processor having the trade name AXTTM manufactured by Digital Equipment Corporation and having a speed of 600-650 megahertz and any suitable amount of memory. It should be noted that a plurality of microprocessors may be used.
